

HAPPENINGS at the SAB

...ensuring a solid technical basis for environmental protection

Volume 8 Number 5

May 2003

GUEST EDITORIAL

One year ago this month, I retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), after serving as the SAB Staff Director for 12 years. Seven months of the past year have been spent in China, and I hope to return there in August. (As they ask in that old Tin Pan Alley ballad, "Are there SARS out tonight?") Having returned to the United States in February and having visited the SAB Office on three occasions after a long recess, I feel compelled to write to you to describe some of the remarkable changes that appear to have taken place at the SAB in my absence. They can be distributed into four different groups:

1. Things that are obvious to anyone who just walks through the SAB space ---

The space of the SAB Office has been tastefully decorated to give it a more professional look and feel. The computer hardware has been upgraded to give the staff improved tools they need to perform productively and efficiently. The Staff has been rejuvenated and expanded with new faces and increased energy. There is even a flower-bedecked "grazing bar" in the common area, which must come as a welcome change for those who subsisted on Barnes' pretzels for many years.

In this issue...

Guest Editorial	1
Tentative Calendar for May & June	3
Committee Activities in April	6
Abstracts of New Reports	7
Status of Formation of SAB Panels	9
SAB Reports in Progress	10
Computer News	10
Staff News	11
Bon Mot	12

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

2. Things that are less visible or not-yet-visible resources --- I understand that there have been significant increases in the budget since I left which have made a number of changes possible. For example, there is now major contract support to address some of the most odious tasks of the past; e.g., minutes; and travel-related issues. As a result, the Designated Federal Officers (DFO) have more time and energy to devote to implementing the SAB's much-improved panel selection process, with its enhanced attention to possible conflicts-of-interest, and to improving the substantive quality of the Board's reports. A Project Data Base (to complement the People Data Base) is under development that will seamlessly gather information from the Agency and greatly simplify the preparation and tracking of SAB projects by the Staff, the Agency, and the public. There is even some discussion of a day when key staff will have "real offices."

3. Things that have an impact --- From what I have seen, the SAB has righted itself from stumbles in the past and is now serving as a benchmark for ethics for other organizations who are considering implementing a panel selection process that is both effective and flexible. These are welcome improvements, especially as the SAB takes on some very important issues; e.g., children's health, environmental models, and improvements in the environmental report card activity.

4. Things that have great potential for the near future --- I understand that the SAB Executive Committee and Staff have met together to discuss major organizational changes in both the Board and the Staff that have the potential to enhance the work of each. There also are discussions of ways to improve the intra-action amongst the participants of the currently wide-flung members of the Board, as well as the interaction of the Board with the Staff, the Agency and the public.

I suspect that there are additional accomplishments and developments that will further enhance the reputation and output of the SAB. In short, everyone should be impressed by what the new leadership has accomplished in just one a year. Dr. Glaze and Dr. Vu are to be commended for their vision, energy, and follow-through.

So, keep up the good work . . . and if you are ever interested in opening a SAB franchise in Nanning, China (there's a good spot right between McDonald's and Pizza Hut!), let me know.



Donald G. Barnes, Ph.D.

TENTATIVE SAB MEETING CALENDAR FOR MAY & JUNE

Several of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) meetings noted below have been announced in the Federal Register (FR), together with additional background information. Readers can automatically receive e-mailed copies of FR Notices by subscribing to the SAB Listserver; see Section Updates below.

If a series of meetings is anticipated, the number of the meeting in the series is indicated in parentheses; e.g., "(#2)".

MAY



1	Committee:	Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)
	Topic(s):	Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard
	Purpose:	To conduct a Consultation on the Agency's Risk Analysis Plans for Coarse Particulate Matter (PM10-2.5) and PM10
	Location:	By Teleconference Only
	Chair:	<i>Dr. Philip Hopke, Clarkson University</i>
	DFO:	<i>Mr. Fred Butterfield</i>
	Email:	butterfield.fred@epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

12-14

Committee: Environmental Health Committee (EHC)
Topic(s): Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility from Early Life Exposure to Carcinogens (SGACS)
Purpose: To review the EPA's Office of Research and Development draft document SGACS
Location: Crystal City, VA (Sheraton Crystal City)
Chair: *Dr. Henry "Andy" Anderson, Wisconsin Division of Public Health*
DFO: *Dr. Suhair "Sue" Shallal*
Email: shallal.sue@epa.gov

16

Committee: Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC)
Topic(s): Leaching Consultation
Purpose: To plan for the June 17-18 face-to-face meeting
Location: By Teleconference Only
Chair: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*
DFO: *Ms. Kathleen White*
Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov

28

Committee: Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (COUNCIL)
Topic(s): Blueprint for the Clean Air Act Third 812 Analysis
Purpose: Pre-meeting to review the Third 812 Analysis of the impacts of the Clean Air Act
Location: By Teleconference Only
Chair: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

30

Committee: Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (COUNCIL) Subcommittee
Topic(s): Air Quality Modeling
Purpose: Pre-meeting to review the Clean Air Act Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress
Location: By Teleconference Only
Chair: *Dr. David Allen, University of Texas*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

JUNE



- 10**
- Committee: Executive Committee (EC)
Topic(s): Proposed FY 2004 Self Initiated Projects
Purpose: To review project proposals
Location: U.S. EPA, Ariel Rios North, Room 6013
Chair: *Dr. William Glaze, Oregon Health & Science University*
DFO: *Mr. A. Robert Flaak*
Email: flaak.robort@epa.gov
- 11-13**
- Committee: Advisory Council on Clean Air Compliance Analysis (COUNCIL)
Topic(s): Blueprint for the Clean Air Act Third Prospective Analysis
Purpose: To review the CAA Section 812 Cost and Benefits Draft Report to Congress
Location: TBA
Chair: *Dr. Trudy Cameron, University of Oregon*
DFO: *Dr. Angela Nugent*
Email: nugent.angela@epa.gov
- 17-18**
- Committee: Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC)
Topic(s): Alternatives to Leach Testing
Purpose: To conduct a Consultation with the EPA's Office of Solid Waste on improving Agency leach testing of waste and conduct other Committee business
Location: TBA
Chair: *Dr. Domenico Grasso, Smith College*
DFO: *Ms. Kathleen White*
Email: white.kathleen@epa.gov

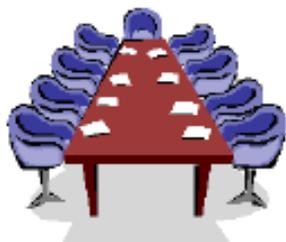
Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

To View Calendar of Future Meetings Click Here

Or

Go to the SAB website www.epa.gov/sab/mtgcal.htm

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES IN APRIL



On April 2, the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) met in a public conference call to discuss various self-initiated projects that might be undertaken by the RAC in FY 2004. The interested members of the public and the Agency participated in the discussions. The RAC is preparing Proposed Project Sheets to be submitted to the SAB's Executive Committee (EC) for discussions to take place pertaining to all requests submitted to the SAB in a public teleconference on June 10, 2003.

On April 10, the SAB's Executive Committee (EC) met via public teleconference to review the report of the Science and Technology Review Panel (STRP) that reviewed the FY 2004 Science and Technology Budget Request. Additional information on this issue can be found on the SAB Website, <http://www.epa.gov/sab/strpanel.html>. The report was presented to the EC by Dr. Genevieve Matanoski, Chair of the STRP and then discussed by Members of the EC. There were no formal Agency or public comments presented. Dr. Randall Seeker, former Chair

of the review panel, commenting as a member of the interested public, offered his support for the report. The report was approved unanimously by the EC for transmittal to the Administrator. Mr. Robert Flaak, EC Designated Federal Officer (flaak.robert@epa.gov) provided the upcoming EC meeting schedule: a) the EC will next meet via teleconference on Tuesday, June 10th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm; and b) the next face-to-face meeting is Wednesday and Thursday, July 16-17, and will be at the EPA Regional Office in Chicago, IL.

On April 11, the Drinking Water Committee (DWC) met to receive briefings from the EPA's Office of Water (OW) and Office of Research and Development (ORD), and to discuss prospects for future SAB briefings, consultations and review projects. The Chair of DWC introduced the discussion by a brief presentation on the historical perspective of the DWC in supporting the development of science for the OW. OW Managers from OW's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and the Office of Science and Technology briefed the DWC on their respective risk management and science initiatives to support the regulatory program. A manager and staff from ORD's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) provided an update on current and future research initiatives for the Drinking Water Program. The OW and ORD

managers agreed that review of upcoming regulations on the Drinking Water Research Strategy was unlikely for the next 18 months or so. However, it was agreed that consultations and briefings might be beneficial in several areas such as the CCL3 process, IRIS documents, health advisories, a strategy for a *Cryptosporidium* criterion, source water protection, pathogens, innovative methods and technologies and distribution systems.

ABSTRACTS OF NEW REPORTS

a Review of Certain Elements of the Stage

2 Regulatory Proposals for Disinfection ByProducts and Surface Water Treatment: An SAB Review EPA-SAB-DWC-03-005

A Panel of the U.S. EPA's Science Advisory Board's Drinking Water Committee reviewed certain elements of the Office of Water's (OW) Stage 2 regulatory proposals for disinfectants/disinfectant by-products and surface water treatment, "Review of Certain Elements of the Stage 2 Regulatory Proposals for Disinfection By-Products and Surface Water Treatment." It responded to Agency charge questions that addressed several important issues in drinking water treatment: 1) LT2ESWT Rule, a) the analysis of the occurrence of a disease-inducing protozoan (*Cryptosporidium*) in drinking water systems, b) the validity of a risk assessment both before and after applying the proposed treatment methods in the LT2ESWTR to those drinking

water systems, and c) the proposed treatment credits (effectiveness in reducing protozoan contamination) by four methods (Bin Classification) including off-stream water storage, pre-sedimentation, lime softening and reducing filtered water turbidity (referred to as microbial toolbox options); 2) S2DBP Rule, a) comment on whether the locational running annual average (LRAA) of total trihalomethanes (TTHM0) and haloacetic acids (HAA5), in conjunction with the initial distribution system evaluation (IDSE) of the proposed rule more effectively achieves public health protection than the running annual average (RAA) method, and b) is the IDSE capable of identifying new compliance monitoring points that target high TTHM and HAA5 levels and if it is the most appropriate tool to achieve this objective.

LT2ESWTR: The Board commends the Agency on its groundbreaking work addressing the impact of the proposed regulation on endemic disease and agrees that the regulation should address the issue. On the other hand, neither the regulation nor the form of economic analysis directly addresses waterborne outbreaks. Failure to consider the impact of the proposed regulation on reducing waterborne disease outbreaks underestimates the benefit of the regulation on public health.

The Board recommends a systematic review of the LT2ESWTR effectiveness in addressing outbreaks and estimating the magnitude of the uncertainty in estimating the occurrence of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and risk of infection and the significance of these uncertainties in estimating benefits. Modeling of occurrence of cryptosporidiosis should include better graphics, sensitivity analyses to prior distributions, clarifications of dose-

response selection, more information on the evidence of endemic disease and quantitation of microbial risk assessment. The Board made specific recommendations on the Bin Classification: 1) no credits for off-stream and pre-sedimentation, 2) 0.5 credits for two stage lime softening, but only if all water is treated in both stages, and 3) 0.5 credits for plants that meet special requirements in each filter.

S2DBPR: The Board believes that the proposed rule will result in a reduction in the health risk to drinking water consumers and recommends that the Agency promulgate the proposed rule without delay, pursuing the IDSE and LRAA as more effective means of controlling exposure to DBPs in drinking water than the current practice.

The Board recommends that the Agency more clearly describe the uncertainties in the benefit analysis including reflecting the true uncertainties in the SWAT model, acknowledge that the IDSE does not consider short term (diurnal) variations and be more candid about the limitations in estimating health risk reduction due to implementing the new rule rather than assuming that bladder cancers will be reduced in proportion to reductions in THM4 and HAA5. For the future, the Board recommends that the Agency focus its research program upon identifying causal agents for bladder cancer and other adverse health effects (e.g., developmental and reproductive toxicity) and link future control strategies for DBPs more directly to the reduction of these causal agents.

b Review of the FY2004 Presidential Science and Technology Budget

Request for the Environmental Protection Agency: An SAB Review EPA-SAB-RSAC-03-006

The Science and Technology Review Panel (STRP) of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on February 24 and 25, 2003, and again on March 21, 2003, to review the Science and Technology portion of the FY 2004 President's Budget Request for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Panel noted that EPA and ORD continue to be guided in planning their science and technology activities by Strategic Plans, Research Strategies and Multi-Year Plans and that the Agency continues to make progress in its use of internal and external collaboration in planning and implementing EPA's science and technology programs.

The Panel noted their continuing concerns with the downward trend in science and technology funding for EPA, in real dollar terms. The Panel suggested that the Agency increase funding to its science and technology activities and recommended that Congress add funds to EPA's appropriation when it adds projects to that program. The Panel believed that the overall distribution of Agency science and technology resources by goal was appropriate. The Panel was pleased that the STAR Fellowships program was restored in the FY 2003 enacted budget and recommends that the FY 2004 Fellowships be restored to the fully funded level of the 2003 enacted budget. Further, the Panel suggested that the Agency consider further increasing all the STAR program components in the future.

The Panel observed a lack of consistency between the way ORD and the Program Offices

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

report on which parts of their science and technology efforts are parts of “core” research and which are parts of “problem-driven” research. The Panel recommended that the Agency more clearly identify both ORD and Program Office science and technology efforts that it categorizes as “core” research. Further, the Panel noted the importance of thinking of EPA’s “core” research in terms of that research in which EPA must exercise leadership in order for there to be sufficient science information to support Agency decision-making.

The Panel noted that the EPA ORD research program addresses most of the important issues needed to meet EPA’s strategic objectives. However, they noted concerns with the continued lack of transparency in EPA’s budget materials that explain the science and technology programs. The Panel noted that the new five-goal strategic plan structure that EPA is developing will help clarify the extent of the science and technology investment, and its nature, that exists to support EPA’s pursuit of its mission.

The Panel considered the Multi-Year Planning process and the further development of the Science Inventory to be efforts that will contribute to the transparency of EPA’s science and technology efforts. Other helpful activities include the development of EPA ORD’s Program Design/Evaluation Logic Model that provides an intellectual framework for linking EPA science and technology programs to EPA’s goals, strategic objectives, and performance measurement.

The Panel noted some specific areas that show promising trends in the Agency’s

programs, some areas where the adequacy of efforts is not certain, and some important areas that the Agency has not been able to attend to in a significant manner.

The Panel recognized the increasing responsibilities that EPA faces and the increasingly complex nature of the issues that must be understood to meet these responsibilities. The Panel noted that the understanding and knowledge of these issues cannot be achieved without increased resources devoted to EPA’s science and technology efforts. The Panel urged the Agency to clearly explain these needs to those in the Administration and the Congress who can influence resource allocations across government.

STATUS OF FORMATION OF SAB PANELS

The Board has developed a revised Panel Formation process for the recruitment of ad-hoc review panels. For the latest detailed information, please visit our website, www.epa.gov/sab/panels/paneltopics.html.

SAB REPORTS IN PROGRESS



a PROJECTS DUE FOR THE JUNE 10 EC TELECONFERENCE

There are none at this time.

b PROJECTS DUE FOR A LATER EC MEETING

There are none at this time.

c PROJECTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE EC APPROVAL (CASAC & COUNCIL)

There are none at this time.

d PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED EC APPROVAL AND AWAIT COMPLETION

EC Subcommittees

- 1) Contaminated Sediments Science Plan Review
- 2) Human Health Research Strategy Review

RAC

- 1) Multi-Agency Radiological Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP)

COMPUTER NEWS



(1) SAB Website is within the EPA Home Page. You are invited to visit the SAB Website at URL: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>

The site offers such features as:

- (a) Full-text reports for FY1994-FY2003
- (b) Background information about the structure, function, and membership of the SAB
- (c) A projected calendar of SAB meetings
- (d) Recent issues of HAPPENINGS
- (e) Draft/final agendas of upcoming meetings and draft/final minutes of past meetings.

(2) SAB Listserver - By subscribing to the free SAB Listserver, you will automatically receive copies of all Federal Register notices announcing SAB meetings, together with brief descriptions of the topics to be covered at the meetings. These notices will be e-mailed to you within 24-hours of their publication in the Federal Register.

To subscribe, simply send the following message, inserting your names,

Subscribe epa-sab2 FIRSTNAME
LASTNAME
to

listserv@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

3) Obtaining copies of SAB reports:
Single hard copies of SAB reports are available for distribution by contacting,
Ms. Priscilla Tillery-Gadson
Phone: (202) 564-4543
Email: tillery.priscilla @epa.gov
or
by faxing your request to
(202) 501-0256.

STAFF NEWS

Dr. Joseph Bachman joined the SAB staff on April 7, 2003, on a six-month detail. He comes from the Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ). He has been with EPA since September 2000 as an Environmental Scientist where he has been providing technical support to OTAQ on issues related to gasoline blending components and ground-water quality. Before coming to EPA, Dr. Bachman worked for 21 years as a hydrologist at the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia District office. He specialized in research on ground-water resources, ground-water quality, and the interaction between ground-water and surface water, and holds his PhD in geochemistry. He will be serving as Acting DFO on the Ecological Processes and Effects Committee.

Ms. Delores Darden joined the SAB in March 2003 as an Office Assistant, and she comes from the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), Program Operation Staff. Before joining EPA in 1998 she retired from the District of Columbia Public Schools with 30

years of service with the Office of Personnel Management. Ms. Darden is a contract employee under the auspices of the National Older Worker Career Center's (NOWCC) Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program.

On May 6, 2003, **Mr. Michael Grant** completed a four-month internship with the SAB Staff Office through a cooperative agreement with the Washington Center. He contributed to the work of the Board in numerous ways, including: planning for the Board's project on "Valuing the Protection of Ecological Systems and Services," participating in the April Strategic Planning Retreat of the Executive Committee and Staff Office, and assisting with database design and implementation tasks. He will return to Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for his senior year after an internship this summer on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Julie Fairfax Heflin joined the SAB on April 21, 2003, on a six-month detail. She comes to the SAB after serving over thirteen years with the Office of Pesticides Programs as a Biologist and as a Team Leader. She has extensive regulatory experience in the registration and re-registration of fungicides, wood preservatives and antimicrobial pesticides. She has most recently worked with the Office of Air and Radiation in the phase out of the ozone depleting chemical methyl bromide, where she was a lead review biologist and contributor to the 2003 Nomination for a Critical Use Exemption for Methyl Bromide for the United States of America. Julie will be serving as the Acting Team Leader for the Committee Evaluation and Support Staff.

Happenings at the Science Advisory Board

Ms. Sandra L. Friedman joined the SAB in March 2003 as an Office Assistant. Ms. Friedman recently received a paralegal certificate and a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Maryland University College. She has had an interest in the environment since she slipped and dipped into the Black River in northern Ohio as a child. In her mature years she worked on Superfund cases for a Federal contractor and as a volunteer for environmental concerns including water and land use issues. Ms. Friedman is a contract employee under the auspices of the National Older Worker Career Center's (NOWCC) Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program.

BON MOT



Old Tree

We have an old tree that became diseased and was losing its bark. We felt it needed a bark transplant and called a tree surgeon.

The communication was mangled and when the surgeon arrived, he went to work on a tree across the street.

He was halfway done when I noticed the error. I tried to stop him, yelling, "Stop! Stop! You're barking up the wrong tree!"